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ICET 100/88
TL 3788

SIA NEWS SERVICE")

KEY: AN - Antara, JW - Jawa Pos, KO - Kompas, PB - Suara Pembaruan, TE - Tempo, TV - Televisi Republik Indonesia, WP - Washington Post

JAN. 2 (SAT.) - Secretary General of the Indonesian Federation of Churches (PGI, Persekutuan Gereja-gereja di Indonesia) Dr. Fridolin Ukur told Pembaruan he respects the Singapore government's expulsion order against 5 foreign leaders of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) which he considers to have deviated from its original principles. He said there had been a tendency among CCA staff to have views which differed from those of the Asian Council of Churches (Dewan Gereja-gereja Asia). The Singapore government has accused the CCA of using Singapore as a base of support for "liberation movements" in Asia. Last Wednesday it announced the withdrawal of work permits and expulsion within 2 weeks of those alleged to be involved in these activities. According to Dr. Ukur, there has been radical and confrontational thinking among CCA staff in settling problems. The Indonesian side preferred consultative methods. Since 1985, we (PGI) have withdrawn from CCA. When CCA held its Seoul meeting in 1985, we saw the growing strength and influence of the movements which dominated the session. The radical group tried to place East Timor on the session's agenda and pressed for a resolution siding with Fretilin. We disagreed. The resolution was not passed. We told them that if the resolution passed we would withdraw from CCA activities. We have not been officially active in CCA since. Many foreign churches supported the position we took, such as the Council of Churches in India, Pakistan, and South Korea itself. Over the last 2 years, PGI leaders tried consultations with the Thailand and Singapore Councils of Churches with the hope that CCA could return to its original policies. He and other PGI officers went to Singapore to frame a program. We demanded changes before we would agree to participate again. Dr. Ukur admitted there was a small group in CCA called the urban and rural mission which was involved in labor and peasant struggles which the Singapore government could not accept. So we appealed to the Singapore government not to close CCA but to act against those who had made Singapore a base for "liberation movements" in Asia. We were a founding member of CCA in 1971 in Prapat, Thailand. Meanwhile, 5 foreign missionaries ordered out of Singapore expressed surprise at this unexpected action. George Ninan, Assistant Secretary General of CCA, said in an interview that the Singapore government's charges had no basis whatsoever. "I don't know how they could say something like that." Last Wednesday, the Singapore government dissolved CCA, the central organization of 113 member Councils of Churches in 17 Asian countries created to increase Christian solidarity. The government said CCA had violated provisions not to get involved in political activities or disseminate funds for political purposes. Those expelled are Ninan, an Anglican clergyman from India; Park Sang Jung from South Korea; CCA Secretary General Kenichi Otsu, a clergyman from Japan; Pura Calo from the Philippines; and Nelun Gunasekara from Sri Lanka. The last two are also church officers. (PB)

JAN. 3 (SUN.) -

Head of the Religion Department's Research and Development Board Drs. Loedjito said the suspicion of East Java Kopkamtib Commander Maj. Gen. Sugeng Subroto that the Jehovah's Witnesses could turn up in other areas accorded with Religion Department findings. The Witnesses' many adherents had begun to emerge in East Kalimantan as well as East Java. "I give thanks that East Java security men were able to topple the Witnesses' activists in a brief time because the Religion Department cannot handle them directly. The Religion Department can only study the sect and the strategy of its struggle. We had already asked the Attorney General and the security people to handle them." Loedjito said the Witnesses were "very radical" so it wasn't strange that some of their activists arrested in East Java were once involved with the PKI. They also had very orderly methods of cadre formation and organizational development. If they weren't handled, their radical doctrines could lead to unrest. The most alarming thing about them was seeking members among the PKI. The Witnesses' teaching "could not be allowed by any religion whatsoever." (JW)

JAN. 4 (MON.) -

East Java High Prosecutor Soewarno Hardjo Oetomo S.H. told **Jawa Pos** his office had undertaken a persuasive approach to adherents of the Jehovah's Witnesses sect in an effort "to straighten out their teachings." His side had invited them to return to the true teachings which are allowed to flourish in Indonesia. The Witnesses in Banyuwangi had carried out banned activities, and two of them were PKI. Possible subversion charges were being studied. The suspects consist of 7 men, 2 of them ex-PKI members, and 4 women, their wives. Meanwhile, no guests come to Arif Wibisono's house in Banyuwangi. Since the December 12 arrests, only his wife Linda Susanti and their 3 small children live there. She is still undergoing intensive interrogation but has been allowed to remain at home. Apart from her, the 3 other wives, Misrina, Muryani, and Sri, also are permitted to remain at home while their husbands are being interrogated. The ex-PKI members Sumarlan Tjokrowijoto and Jumiran Sidi came without their wives to the Witnesses' meetings. **Jawa Pos** twice visited Linda Susanti in an effort to get a statement. But the friendly Jakarta-born Linda said, "It's better we keep silent. This is a test of our faith as Jehovah's Witnesses." She and Arif had been adherents since 1972. Before their conversions, Arif was a Protestant. His faith changed after frequent visits from Kediri evangelists. Three others of those arrested, Sumarlan, Mujanji, and printshop owner Suparto were similarly converted. Sumarlan and Mujanji were previously Muslims. Meetings were held not only in Arif's home, but those of Sumarlan and printshop owner Suwito, but such meetings were not routine. (JW)

Four members of the Indonesian Islamic Congregation (Jemaah Islam Indonesia) were sentenced to 9 years imprisonment each by the Sumber District Court in Cirebon District. They were proved to have robbed a gasoline station on Jl. Tuparev on September 22, 1986 to gather funds for their subversive activities. Police investigations of the seemingly normal robbery found it was a cloak for the Jemaah Islam Indonesia, 15 of whose members were subsequently arrested, 5 among them found to be former Indonesian Islamic State (NII) members who were the leaders. The four convicted were Dodo Widodo, Asep Jodi, Dalis Burhanudin, and Beny Achmad. Their sentence was 3 years lighter than the prosecutor's demand. They immediately said they accepted it. The Jemaah Islam Indonesia was established by Lukman Hakim in Palimanan (Cirebon) in 1985 and in reality is an extension of the NII. He was "Chief of Staff of Regional Command I of the West Java DI/TII and Chairman of Jemaah Islam Indonesia." Lukman was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in the same case, following his NII colleagues who were sentenced after the murder of two policemen in Rajapolah (Tasikmalaya) in 1983. His colleagues were Adah Jaelani (20 years imprisonment), Opa Mustafa (12 years), and Ules Sujai (12 years). (KO)

JAN. 5 (TUES.) -

In a yearend statement released to reporters, Foreign Minister Mochtar said the postponement of debate at the U.N. on East Timor for the fifth time indicated that the attention of the international public to the issue had increasingly diminished. "Disarmament" (perlucutan senjata) and the advance of development in East Timor, especially in education, health, and agriculture, had a positive impact on Indonesia's diplomatic struggle to end these debates once and for all in international forums, especially the U.N. The superpowers were among those recognizing these good results. Still, vigilance had to be raised, for anti-Indonesia parties would always work to use every chance to attack Indonesia in these forums. Mochtar also said Indonesia has officially offered to host the 9th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in 1989. A number of friendly states have declared their support for Indonesia's nomination. The final decision will be made at the NAM ministerial level conference in Cyprus in 1988. Although a founder of the NAM, Indonesia has never hosted a NAM summit. Indonesia wishes to purify the movement and bring it in line with the noble ideals of non-alignment. (KO)

JAN. 6 (WED.) -

Kompas editorial staff member Tonny D. Widiastono reported on education in East Timor. There are 559 primary schools in 442 villages, 81 lower secondary schools in 62 sub-districts (kecamatan), and 29 upper secondary schools in 13 districts. In the Portuguese period, there were only 147 primary schools, 4 lower secondary schools, and one upper secondary school. "With just a little effort, schools can be found everywhere." In teaching year 1987/88, there were 1,713 kindergarten students, 129,629 primary school students, 26,315 lower secondary school students, and 10,156 upper secondary school students. As Governor Mario Carrascalao said, everybody wants to go to school. Education and Culture Department Head in East Timor J. Soewardijo said the Department had almost been left behind in providing services to the students. The region very much needs teachers. At first, primary school teachers were brought from outside East Timor. But they went home after 2-3 years and didn't return. The results of opening a number of teacher training schools (SPG) for Timorese have been modest, producing only enough primary school teachers. The need for upper secondary school teachers is "far more serious" than that for lower secondary school teachers. About 500 are needed. The gap has had to be filled by civil servants with undergraduate degrees who are already working full-time in their offices. Said Soewardijo, "In East Timor, we cannot yet speak of standards." Apart from the teacher factor, teaching materials and equipment are needed. "The society is truly poor.... We are working to raise them up through education." Any funds the Governor can scrape up are used for scholarships. At least 417 SPG students get scholarships of Rp. 25,000 monthly. Then there is about Rp. 800 million spent a year for those studying outside East Timor. Then there are honoraria for the temporary teachers. There are parents-teachers associations (POMG). "In fact, just to live is quite hard. It's very difficult to ask their participation in education. So we've asked the center to exempt students from education and guidance contributions (SPP)." The structures for supporting basic learning needs are also absent. "In East Timor, there are no bookshops. Even if books were sold, people don't have the money to buy them. Particularly instruction books. It's the most saddening thing. There will be difficulties if the instruction books get damaged or worn-out." (KO)

JAN. 7 (THURS.) -

Michael Vatikiotis wrote that the fiscal 1988/89 budget means there will be almost no increase in development spending for the third straight year. "For President Suharto, who has made his commitment to development the hallmark of his 21-year rule, the fact that debt servicing will outstrip development spending by 20 percent could be seen as something of a personal blow. Yet to Suharto, the prompt repayment of foreign debts has also become an article of faith." Anwar Nasution, a leading Indonesian economist, said, "The government has a cash flow problem. A large part of the debt is in appreciating currencies, while nearly 100 percent of our exports are paid for in depreciating currencies." Nasution and others have sounded the alarm about the debt picture, deploring the country's dependence on foreign loans. The government has categorically ruled out debt rescheduling. A more realistic solution, some say, would be to restructure or refinance the debt. "A $300 mmillion commercial loan recently syndicated by three foreign banks is reportedly being used to make payments on outstanding loans with less attractive terms." (WP)

JAN. 8 (FRI.) -

In another Indonesian Islamic State (NII) subversion case, the East Jakarta District Court sentenced Bambang Suprianto alias Abbas, 21, to 7 years imprisonment. His colleagues, Safki Suarul Huda, 21, and Syahroni alias Mamat Hikmat, 40, have been sentenced to life and 15 years imprisonment respectively by the South Jakarta District Court. The NII movement's principal leader was named Imam Jabir who is deceased. His role was assumed by Imam Muchliansyah now suspected to live in Malaysia and then continued by Imam Bahri who is a fugitive. Bambang was an intermediary for Imam Bahri. However, during his trial Bambang withdrew his interrogation deposition claiming he had experienced pressure and violence. After hearing the court's verdict, Bambang, accompanied by his legal advisors Pipien Unikowati S.H. and Furqon W. Authon S.H., immediately said he would appeal. (JW)